



b) the thus obtained precipitate, [in a manner known per se] is separated by sedimentation, dehydrated, washed with water and the thus obtained filter cake is optionally dried;

c) the filter cake obtained in step (b) in a wet and/or dried form is suspended in water and added with at least one mineral acid and/or at least one salt thereof for forming a calcium aluminatesalt precipitate containing water of crystallization,

d) the precipitate, [in a manner known per se] is separated by sedimentation, dehydrated, washed with water and the thus obtained filter cake is crushed and optionally dried and/or milled.

19. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein an aqueous alkaline sodium aluminate solution a waste pickling lye is used as obtained by surface-treatment of aluminum metal.

20. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein an aqueous alkaline sodium aluminate solution and a waste pickling lye, respectively, is used wherein  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  are present in a mole ratio of (1.0 to 10.0):1, preferably of (1.2 to 2.5):1.

21. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein in step (a) an aqueous alkaline sodium aluminate solution is used as a starting material and calcium (hydr)oxide is added thereto.

22. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein in step (a) calcium (hydr)oxide is used as a starting material and then the aqueous alkaline sodium aluminate solution is added.

23. (New) The process according to claim 21, wherein from 2 to 8 mole of  $\text{CaO}$  equivalents, preferably from 3 to 5 mole of  $\text{CaO}$  equivalents, based on 1 mole of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  equivalent, are added.

24. (New) The process according to claim 18 wherein the precipitation of the precipitate in step (a) is carried out within a reaction time of from 5 to 3000 min, preferably from 60 to 600 min, at a temperature of from 5 to 60°C, preferably from 30 to 50°C.

25. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein in that the calcium aluminohydrate precipitate in step (b) is mechanically dehydrated, preferably by using a pressure filtration, in particular by using a chamber filter press or a membrane filter press and, alternatively, by using a vacuum belt filter or a centrifuge.

26. (New) The process according to claim 25, wherein the dehydrated calcium aluminohydrate precipitate at a temperature of  $< 100^{\circ}\text{C}$  is dried and crushed, preferably milled.

27. (New) The process according to claim 25, wherein the dehydrated calcium aluminohydrate precipitate at a temperature of from 100 to  $1300^{\circ}\text{C}$ , preferably from 100 to  $500^{\circ}\text{C}$ , is dried and calcined, respectively, and crushed, preferably milled.

28. (New) The process according to claim 18, wherein the dehydrated and optionally washed filter cake of step (b) is suspended in water and added with at least one mineral acid and/or at least one salt thereof to form an extra white calcium aluminatesalt precipitate containing water of crystallization, the precipitate optionally being further processed, wherein the dehydrated calcium aluminohydrate precipitate at a temperature of  $< 100^{\circ}\text{C}$  is dried and crushed, preferably milled.

29. (New) The process according to claim 28, wherein as a mineral acid hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, sulfuric acid, silicic acid and/or carbonic acid and salts thereof, respectively, in particular their alkaline metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts and aluminum salts are used.

30. (New) The process according to claim 29, wherein as a mineral acid a sulfuric acid containing aluminum, preferably a waste acid derived from eloxal plants, is used.

31. (New) The process according to claim 28, wherein in step (b) a sulfate is added to the filter cake suspended in water in a ratio of 1 part by weight of Al to 4 to 7 parts by weight of  $\text{SO}_4$ , based on the total aluminum content.

32. (New) The process according to claim 31, wherein anions of the further mineral acid(s) which are hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, sulfuric acid, silicic acid and/or carbonic acid and salts thereof, respectively, in particular their alkaline metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts and aluminum salts are used and are additionally added in amounts of 1 part by weight of Al to 0.5 to 10 parts by weight of anions, based on the total aluminum content of the suspension.

33. (New) A method for use of the products obtained in the process according to claim 18 in the form of an aqueous suspension and/or in solid form as an extra white pigment for surface-coating of paper or as a filler in the production of paper or in the production of paints and lacquers, preferably for indoor and outdoor uses.

34. (New) A method for use of the products obtained in the process according to claim 18 as a flame-retardant filler for fire-protecting construction materials, insulating materials, mortars, wallpapers, paperboards, papers, for the production of paints and lacquers, as a filler for producing plasterboards or building slabs or as an hydraulically active additive for producing swelling cements, swelling plasters and screeds, for microfiber armation of cements and mortars or as a swelling component for the production of explosion-protected explosives.